Proposal for Setting up of Alumina Plants

686. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up new Alumina Plants;

(b) if so, the States where those new Alumina plants are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether any new Alumina Plant is proposed to be set up in Orissa during the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the site selected therefor; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The Government does not have any proposal to set up any new public Sector Alumina plant.

(b) to (e) Question does not arise.

Steps to Increase subsidy in Agricultural Sector

687. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for a substantial increase in the Subsidy for the development of agricultural sector in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to check the prices of agricultural inputs at reasonable level in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers etc. are affected by market forces. Urea fertiliser is under statutory price control and sold at uniform price throughout the country. Subsidy on urea under Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme is worked out separately both on indigenous and imported urea and its quantum depends on actual consumption. Besides, Government of India is providing concession of Rs. 1000/- per tonne on MOP and indigenous DAP, Rs. 340/- per tonne on SSP and between Rs. 435—999 per tonne on indigenous complexes on sale of these fertilisers to the farmers so as to cushion the impact of rise in their prices subsequent to decontrol. No decision to increase the per tonne concession indicated above has been taken.

These steps benefit all farmers in the country including Punjab.

**Written Answers to Starred and Unstarred Questions set for the 30th November, 1995*

Use of Electronic Equipment for Public Health

688. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: SHRI V . RAJESHWAR RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what initiatives have been taken by the Department of Electronics for developing electronic equipment in the areas of Public Health;

(b) what are the details of such equipment and what is their cost; and

(c) what is being done to popularies these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Department of Electronics is conducting a comprehensive Programme "Electronics

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* The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 95 was adjourned as a mark of respect in memory of Shri Dinesh Singh. Answers to questions put down in lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on 1st December, 1995.